

AMHERST/LA PAZ CENTRO SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Minutes

July 29, 2010

PRESENT: Liz Etheridge, Chuck and Nancy Milch, Kathy and Walter Mullin, Anne and Ed Stanek, Carol Wood.

MARY AND LIZ'S REPORT

Mary and Liz submitted a wonderfully detailed report of their July trip to La Paz Centro. We had some follow-up comments and questions:

Scholarship Program

1. Are the school fees for the students being paid on time?
Unfortunately, Mary and Liz were not able to meet with the principal of Pablo Sexto so could not get the answer to this one.
2. We asked **Mary** to try to get Julio to follow up on our question of what the special fees (for field trips, etc.) would be for the year for the scholarship students.
We had a discussion about these fees. We felt that it would make sense for us to pay for them, especially if it is a big enough issue for students that they have to drop out of the program because they can't afford the fees.
3. Tutoring: We asked **Mary** to follow up again, asking Julio if he could ask Carlos Ariel to do some math and science tutoring for the students.
4. Computer program at the Casa de La Mujer: We would like to pursue the idea of trying out the certificate program there with five students – perhaps students who have graduated from the scholarship program, but they could also be chosen from students who are still in the program. The problem with the latter is that they may not have the necessary time. We asked **Mary** to follow up on this idea with Julio.
 - One question that came up is how much help has the Computer Certificate been in the job search for the program's graduates. **Mary** will try to get an answer on this question from Julio.

Gifts

Liz and Mary took care of gifts themselves, which we appreciated. They gave umbrellas, a necklace, plastic Amherst College cups, pencils and angel pins.

Committee Issues

We had another discussion as to how to broaden the committee in La Paz Centro – how to spread tasks so that Julio doesn't do everything. One idea is that we could offer to pay a co-leader. Rafaela is interested in being on the committee. It was unclear as to how we might follow up on this.

Meeting with Elyse, the Peace Corps Worker in La Paz Centro

Elyse is very enthusiastic about working with the Felipe Lopez, La Paz Centro community. We enthusiastically gave her the go-ahead to begin carrying out her ideas. Kathy suggested that she might initiate a student leadership program, encouraging students to think of community projects that they might do and helping them to follow through with them. Elyse is interested in started a composting project and we suggested that she might want to plant a model vegetable garden by the community center. We also mentioned that we could provide financial support for supplies that she might need. **Liz** will follow up with Elyse. Liz will give Elyse Nancy's Milch's email address as Nancy has time to be the contact person for Elyse while Liz is away.

Banking

The banking issue has not been worked out after all. Julio gave Mary the papers that show his communication with the bank. Now they are requiring \$150 in fees before they will allow Julio access to the account. We decided, though not happily, to give the bank the money in hopes that this will truly take care of the problem. **Kathy** is submitting a request for the \$150, which **Nancy** is sending to Julio.

TAG SALE

The annual Tag Sale is on Saturday, September 11th. Carol Wood and the Staneks can store items in their garage. **Anne** will put a notice in the Gazette and email the flyer to everyone. **Kathy** will bring the receipts so that we can give them to people who donate for tax purposes.

Liz and Steve will provide their truck. The **Mullins** will try to borrow another truck. Ed will be in Argentina so won't be available at all. The rest of us are available as follows:

Walter will be there in the early hours only as he has to teach the rest of Saturday. He can also help transport items on Friday afternoon.

Carlos and Mary can only be there until 11 am as they have a wedding that day.

Chuck and Nancy, Liz and Steve, Kathy, Carol Wood and Anne can be there all day.

Jeannie has indicated that she might be able to help.

We welcome the help of any others who can come!

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 26th at 7:30 pm in the Lower Internal Meeting Room of the Bangs Center.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Stanek.